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Spot Report: Region 6, Anhydrous Ammonia Release, ABC Chemical, Outthere, LA

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1700 hours, 03/04/14

Overview: According to local media reports, at approximately 1400 local time on 3/4 an anhydrous ammonia release occurred at the ABC Chemical Company in Outthere, LA. ABC operates a 10 acre, multi-product facility producing anhydrous ammonia, urea, nitric acid, urea ammonium nitrate (UAN), and carbon dioxide. The release reportedly occurred from a broken pipe within an anhydrous ammonia loading area. One employee was injured and taken to the hospital. ABC uses natural gas feedstock delivered via pipeline. Its products are transported to market via truck or rail. The facility has been identified as an RMP facility.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: Employees at the facility and nearby facilities were directed to shelter-in-place because of the incident. The facility utilized a water deluge system in an attempt to reduce the threat posed by the anhydrous ammonia release. The release has been secured. Local responders are on-scene and an effort is underway to control run-off. LA DEQ has been notified and has requested EPA technical assistance.

EPA Actions: The Region 6 REOC is in contact with LA DEQ. An R6 OSC is en route to the incident along with R6 START contractors. LDEQ requested EPA assistance with air monitoring. R6 is reviewing the facility RMP report and conducting a more extensive review of the facility's compliance history.

Media Interest: Low

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed.

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